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DEVELOPMENT OF AN-SHAN STEEL AND IRON WORKS IN 1952

Summary: The industrial production of the An-shan Steel and Iron Works in 1952 was 6.4 times the 1949 output. Methods promoted included repair of horizontal furnaces, scientific heating, and manufacturing of steel ingots. The machinery provision department supplied: excavators, hoists, electrical shovels, all-purpose carriers, cement mixers, water pumps, and spraying machines to the manufacturing departments. A new steel rail manufacturing department will be completed by the latter half of 1953.

New additions of 1952 include a seamless steel pipe manufacturing department and an automatic open-hearth furnace. There are 12 construction and political work departments and six engineering departments in An-shan Steel and Iron Works. Personnel in basic construction work increased from 9,000 to several tens of thousands.

Plans for 1953 include civil construction development, purchase of raw material, study of future projects, and drawing up 400 furnace blueprints.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

A. Industrial Production and Operational Progress

1. Production

The industrial production of the An-shan Steel and Iron Works in 1952 was 6.4 times the 1949 output.(1) The industrial production for 1950 showed a 285.4 percent increase over 1949; for 1951, a 32 percent increase over 1950; and for 1952, a 28 percent increase over 1951.(2) Production of high-quality steel increased from 5 percent of total production in 1950 to 24.2 percent in 1952.(3)

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2. Operation

Advanced methods such as repair of horizontal furnaces, scientific heating, and manufacturing of steel ingots were promoted and carried out.(3) Winter operation was successfully conducted for the first time in 1952 by this plant; if this can be carried out each year, it will increase the operational period by 33 1/3 percent.(4)

B. Departments

1. Operational Departments

The An-shan Steel and Iron Works has 12 construction and political work /cheng-chih/ departments and six engineering departments. The 12 construction and political work departments are: geology, planning, calculation, raw materials, equipment, finance, engineering administration, labor and wages, organization, preservation, propaganda, and secretariat. The six engineering departments are: civil construction, mechanical equipment, installing, metal works, electrical installing, health equipment installing, and furnace construction.(5)

The planning department has over 1,000 men and is divided into construction, water conservancy, installations, electricity, power, chemicals, mining, iron smelting, steel refining, and steel rolling sections. In addition, there are two administrative sections.(6)

2. Production Departments

a. Machinery Provision Department -- From July to November 1952, the machinery provision department supplied many new types of machinery to the manufacturing departments. The number of excavators, hoists, electrical shovels, and all-purpose carriers supplied were tripled; cement mixers, water pumps, and spraying machines supplied were increased 30 to 40 times; and trucks supplied were increased ten times.

Because of the adequate machinery provision in 1952, the An-shan Steel and Iron Works excavated 80,000 cubic feet of area, cemented 60,000 cubic feet of area, and transported its products a total distance of 2 million kilometers. Future projects to be undertaken include excavating 130,000 cubic feet of area and cementing 70,000 cubic feet of area.(7)

b. Steel Rail Manufacturing Department -- The new steel rail manufacturing department, to be completed by the latter half of 1953, will produce light and heavy steel rail and different types of steel. It is expected that yearly steel rail production of this department will amount to the approximate length of rail from Ch'ang-ch'un to Canton. Personnel will only total about 640, since the major part of the manufacturing process will be mechanical.

c. Seamless Steel Pipe Manufacturing Department -- The seamless steel pipe manufacturing department, which was completed in November 1952, occupies approximately 130,000 cubic feet of area. The personnel totals 693, including 86 administrators.(8)

d. The First Automatic Open-Hearth Furnace -- The No 8 open-hearth furnace was converted to an automatic open-hearth furnace. Other reconstruction undertaken included repair of the No 3 ore inspection machine, repair of two steam furnaces, installment of a blast furnace, and repair of two coke ovens.(8) After the automatic open-hearth furnace was put into operation, the daily production of steel increased 90 percent. The amount of coke used in producing steel decreased one percent in November 1952.(9)

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C. Personnel

By the end of 1952, the personnel employed in the An-shan Steel and Iron Works included several hundred administrative cadres, several thousand technical personnel, several thousand basic cadres, and thousands of workers.(5) Personnel in basic construction work increased from 9,000 to several tens of thousands, including over 100 experienced cadres as leaders. Skilled workers in the basic reconstruction corps total over 2,000. Personnel includes graduates from 56 universities and technical schools.(6)

D. Plans for 1953

Basic construction plans for 1953 include study of future projects, planning civil construction, and drawing up 400 furnace blueprints.(10) Survey and inspection work is to be emphasized and plans for raw material purchase are to be formulated. Thousands of feet of lumber and 2 million red bricks were scheduled to be delivered to the An-shan Steel and Iron Works at the beginning of the year. Materials to be imported from foreign countries have been ordered.(11) Equipment orders for 1953 sent to Shanghai, Canton, Ch'ang-sha, T'ai-yuan, Tsinan, Mukden, Dairen, and Ch'i-ch'i-ha-erh were more than twice those of 1952.

The Ministry of Heavy Industry and the Ministry of Machine Industry No 1 held a conference to study and discuss the manufacturing of equipment and ordering of materials. Engineers and cadres were sent to the An-shan Steel and Iron Works to assist it in ordering and manufacturing equipment by Northeast Machinery Plants No 1, 2, and 17, the Electrical Equipment Industry Control Bureau of the Northeast People's Government, the No 5 Electrical Equipment Manufacturing Plant of the above bureau, and the T'ang-shan Machinery Plant.(12)

E. Workers' Facilities

1. Training

One of the special schools of the An-shan Steel and Iron Works is a cadre training school designed to train cadres in acquiring basic scientific knowledge on high school and collegiate levels. In March 1953, 230 students were enrolled. The principal of this school is Chin T'ieh-ch'un, who is deputy secretary of An-shan Municipal Party Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and deputy manager of An-shan Steel and Iron Works.(13)

2. Living Quarters

Dormitories occupying 200,000 cubic feet area were built to house workers and their families. Half of the area was used for three-story buildings and the other half for tile-roof houses. In the workers' residential district there are: a technical school for the workers and their families, a theater, a recreational hall, grammar schools, medical centers, nurseries, a kindergarten, cooperatives, and swimming pools.(14)

SOURCES

1. Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 13 Dec 52
2. Ibid., 6 Dec 52
3. Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 18 Dec 52
4. Shanghai, Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 9 Dec 52

5. Shanghai, Ta Kung Pao, 26 Dec 52
6. Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 1 Dec 52
7. Ibid., 10 Dec 52
8. Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 6 Jan 53
9. Shanghai, Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 4 Nov 52
10. Shanghai, Ta Kung Pao, 23 Dec 52
11. Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 21 Dec 52
12. Shanghai, Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 4 Feb 53
13. Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 5 Mar 53
14. Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 4 Dec 52

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